

CONFIDENTIAL.]

No. 1 of 1883.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th January 1883.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Bhārat Shramajivī" | Calcutta ... | 2,100 | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 2 | "Bhārat Hitaishī" | Burrisal ... | ..... |  |
| 3 | "Sansodhini" | Chittagong ... | 600 | |
| 4 | "Purva Pratidhwani" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 5 | "Jātiya Suhrid" | Calcutta ... | ..... |  |
| 6 | "Tripurā Vārtāvaha" | Commillah ... | ..... |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 7 | "Ananda Bazar Patrikā" | Ditto ... | 700 | 25th December 1882. |
| 8 | "Arya Darpan" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 9 | "Bangabāsi" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 10 | "Bārtābaha" | Pubna ... | ..... | 23rd to 30th December 1882. |
| 11 | "Bhārat Bandhu" | Calcutta ... | ..... | 30th December 1882. |
| 12 | "Bhārat Mihir" | Mymensing ... | 671 | 26th ditto. |
| 13 | "Bengal Advertiser" | Calcutta ... | 2,000 | |
| 14 | "Bardwān Sanjivani" | Burdwan ... | 296 | 29th ditto. |
| 15 | "Chāruvārtā" | Sherepore, Mymensing ... | ..... | 25th ditto. |
| 16 | "Dacca Prakāsh" | Dacca ... | 350 | 31st ditto. |
| 17 | "Dūt" | Calcutta ... | ..... |  |
| 18 | "Education Gazette" | Hooghly ... | 745 | 5th January 1883. |
| 19 | "Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" | Comercolly ... | ..... |  |
| 20 | "Halisahar Prakāshikā" | Calcutta ... | ..... | 30th December 1882. |
| 21 | "Hindu Ranjikā" | Beauleah, Rājshāhye ... | 200 | 3rd January 1883. |
| 22 | "Medinī" | Midnapore ... | ..... | 25th December 1882. |
| 23 | "Murshidābād Patrikā" | Berhampore ... | 487 | |
| 24 | "Murshidābād Pratinidhi" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 25 | "Navavibhākar" | Calcutta ... | 850 | 1st January 1883. |
| 26 | "Paridarshak" | Sylhet ... | ..... | 24th December 1882. |
| 27 | "Pratikār" | Berhampore ... | 275 | |
| 28 | "Rajshahye Samvād" | Beauleah ... | ..... |  |
| 29 | "Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" | Kakinī, Rungpore ... | 250 | 4th January 1883. |
| 30 | "Sādhārani" | Chinsurah ... | 500 | 31st December 1882. |
| 31 | "Sahachar" | Calcutta ... | 500 | |
| 32 | "Som Prakāsh" | Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ... | ..... | 1st January 1883. |
| 33 | "Sudhākar" | Mymensing ... | ..... |  |
| 34 | "Sulabha Samāchār" | Calcutta ... | 4,000 | 30th December 1882. |
| 35 | "Srihatta Prakāsh" | Sylhet ... | 440 | |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 36 | "Samvād Prabhākar" | Calcutta ... | 700 | 29th December 1882 to 4th Jan. 1883. |
| 37 | "Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" | Ditto ... | 300 | 1st to 6th January 1883. |
| 38 | "Samāchār Chandrikā" | Ditto ... | 625 | 1st and 3rd ditto. |
| 39 | "Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" | Ditto ... | 500 | 1st to 5th ditto. |
| 40 | "Prabhāti" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 41 | "Samāchār Sudhābarsan" | Ditto ... | | |
| ENGLISH AND URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 42 | "Urdu Guide" | Ditto ... | 365 | |

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|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| | HINDI. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | |
| 43 | "Bhārat Mitra" | Calcutta | 500 | 25th December 1882. 23rd ditto. |
| 44 | "Sār Sudhānidh" | Ditto | 200 | |
| 45 | "Uchit Baktā" | Ditto | ..... |  |
| | PERSIAN. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | |
| 46 | "Jām-Jahān-numā" | Ditto | 250 | |
| | URDU. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | |
| 47 | "Akhhār-i-Darussaltanat" | Ditto | ..... |  |
| | <i>Bi-Weekly.</i> | | | |
| 48 | "Amir-ul-Akhhār" | Ditto | ..... |  |
| | ASSAMESE. | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | |
| 49 | "Assam Vilāsini" | Sibsagar | ..... |  |
| | URIYA. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | |
| 50 | "Utkal Dīpikā" | Cuttack | 200 | |
| 51 | "Utkal Darpan" | Balasore | 160 | |
| 52 | "Balasore Samvad Vāhikā" | Ditto | 125 | |
| 53 | "Purusottam Patrikā" | Pooree | ..... |  |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | |
| 54 | "Mayurbhunj Pākshik Pātrikā" | Mayurbhunj | ..... |  |
| | HINDI. | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | |
| 55 | "Kshatriya Patrikā" | Patna | ..... |  |

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BARTABARA,
December 23rd, 1892.

1. REFERRING to the action of the Pubna police in the recent affray with the men of Azimuddin Chowdhury of Dulai in Pubna, the *Bartabara*, of the

The Dulai case.

23rd December, makes the following remarks: Nothing is being said by the authorities regarding the person who was killed in the recent affray. No charge has as yet been brought against the police in this connection; and the matter, it would seem, is going to be hushed up. But will no enquiry be made into this act of highhandedness in helping the civil court to execute one of its decrees? The police, for the alleged purpose of maintaining peace, successively fired upon a number of men with this result that one of them was killed and another seriously wounded. Is there nobody to enquire whether the action of the police was justified under the circumstances? There could not be a matter for greater regret, if under British rule and under the good administration of Lord Ripon and Mr. Rivers Thompson, the slaughter of a person in broad day-light were quietly ignored? Azimuddin Chowdhury has been tried and his trial is over, but what of the trial of those who are responsible for the death of the person who has perished in the late affray? It is well known that the life of a Bengali is considered by a European to be of even less value than that of a cat or a dog and is taken away by him with impunity. But will this state of things continue even under the rule of Lord Ripon? If the case against the police is not taken up and properly enquired into, the impression already caused in the public mind, that the object of prosecuting Azimuddin Chowdhury has been to hush up the case against the police, will be greatly confirmed.

2. The *Paridarshak*, of the 24th December 1882, makes the following observations on the recently published

PARIDARSHAK,
December 24th, 1882.

The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation.

Assam Land and Revenue Regulation:—

A perusal of the draft Regulation shows that the fears which were expressed by the Assam landholders on account of this piece of legislation were really well founded. The draft Regulation will doubtless be shortly passed into law, but it is earnestly to be hoped that Lord Ripon will carefully consider the comments that may be made upon the proposed measure by the landholding classes in Assam. The introduction into the Legislative Council of a similar Bill for Bengal would have given birth to endless agitation and debates, but as Assam is not equally fortunate with Bengal, a grave responsibility rests upon those who legislate for this province.

There is much to be said regarding this Regulation. In the present article will be considered the following points; namely, land liable to assessment or to resumption, the resumption procedure and the question of the applicability of the Indian Limitation Act to the Regulation under notice. Now it is clear from sections 34 and 51 of the Regulation that except land which is under the permanent settlement or in respect of which any other tax than the land tax is imposed under section 55, all other land shall be deemed liable to be assessed to revenue and resumption. Even if such land may have remained in the occupancy of a person from the time of the permanent settlement or even for a long period after that, still if his occupancy be not of the nature contemplated in sections 34 and 51, the provisions of the Limitation Act will not apply in his case, and the excess land will be resumed by the State. If this provision be passed into law, the interests of the zamindars of Sylhet will be seriously injured. The Editor then proceeds to make the following observations:—

(1) In respect of such estates as are under the permanent settlement this Regulation clearly repudiates the pledge given by the British

Government in 1793, as will be clearly seen by reading together clause 3, section 8 of Regulation I of 1793, and section 36 of Regulation VIII of the same year. It thus appears that in respect of permanently settled lands, Government did not reserve to itself any power of interference on any future occasion. If Government were now to do any act not strictly falling under the five powers reserved to it by section 8 of Regulation I, by what other name would that act be called except "Breach of Promise"? What was the meaning of the words "at present" contained in clause 3 of section 8 of Regulation I? Did they mean at that time or a century thenceforth?

(2) Land in Sylhet is not circumstanced like land in the different districts of Bengal. Here land is held in small shares; and a taluk has nearly a thousand coparceners. Land belonging to one is often found in the possession of another; and the occupant is found to be in the possession of land belonging to another taluk for a period exceeding that to which the Limitation Act applies. Under these circumstances, what good is likely to accrue from the proposed Regulation? It appears that after a survey all lands which may be found to be in excess of that covered by the settlement will be resumed, but the person whose estate is, after measurement, found to contain less land will not be able to recover the deficiency from another. But what will become of the provisions of the Limitation Act regarding twelve years adverse possession? The person, who finds his land less than what he has a right to will, it would seem, remain a loser for ever, while he, who, through force or fraud, has managed to remain in possession of excess land will have to relinquish it. This will render possible a double assessment. This point should be carefully enquired into.

(3) Even if the object of the Regulation under notice be to resume such land as may remain after deducting the area actually included in a particular pergunnah as found on survey from the area included in it at the time of the permanent settlement, there cannot but be injustice. There is no rule or procedure laid down in the Regulation to determine how much will be taken from a taluk as excess land.

(4) Possession is nine points of the law, and it is not equitable to dispossess persons of lands of which they have been in possession for nearly a century.

(5) The powers given to the Deputy Commissioners in section 51 are very large, and will entail considerable hardship and oppression upon land-holders.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 26th, 1882.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 25th December 1882, thus concludes an article on "local self-government."

There has been considerable improvement in the condition of Bengal since the Duke of Argyll first entrusted the business of the road cess committees into the hands of her people. If, instead of being nominated by Government, members of road cess committees had been elected by the people, the influence of local authorities over road cess committees and municipal boards would have been less powerful than at present. If Lord Ripon really confers upon the people the boon of local self-government, it may be confidently predicted that they will be able to maintain that privilege. But the success of the local self-government scheme will depend entirely upon the character of the legislation that may be undertaken to give effect to it. It now rests with Lord Ripon to enact a law in this connection which will be perfectly unobjectionable.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

4. The same paper observes that the establishment of a central board in connection with local self-government will prove beneficial, that Magistrates should be allowed some voice in the deliberations of local boards, though not any direct

Local self-government legislation.

control over them, and that legislation regarding local self-government should properly be undertaken by the Indian Council and not by the Bengal Council. The people have indeed confidence in Mr. Rivers Thompson, but they doubt whether the other local authorities and even members of the Bengal Council are really in earnest about the matter.

5. The *Medini*, of the 25th December 1882, expresses dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company are maintaining the steamer service on the Midnapore canal. Things were better managed under Government officers, who were attentive to the convenience and comforts of the passengers. The same cannot be said of the Company which has lately undertaken the work. Too many passengers are now taken. There are frequent stoppages and great unpunctuality.

MEDINI,
December 25th, 1882.

Local self-government.
Board and District Board.

Central

6. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 26th December 1882, contains an article headed "A Central Board and District Board." The Editor points out the inutility of a central board and the desirability of creating district boards. [See paragraph 8 of our last report.]

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 26th, 1882.

Publication of Acts and Bills.

7. Referring to Mr. Ilbert's speech in the Legislative Council on the question of giving greater publicity to Acts and Bills, the same paper makes the following observations:—The confidence of the people is daily increasing in the different departments of the Indian Government; there is a marked contrast between the recent speech of Mr. Ilbert in the Indian Legislative Council—a speech which expressed a strong desire on the part of Government to listen to, and to be guided by, native opinion—and the contemptuous disregard of Indian public opinion which was shown by the late Law Member, Mr. Stokes. The present administration is to be commended for slackening the speed of the Legislative mill. The Editor approves generally of the amendments of the rules of business proposed by Mr. Ilbert, and observes that the existing arrangements for giving publicity to legislative measures are extremely imperfect. The Gazettes sent to Courts rot in the shelves of the clerks and are not touched by pleaders and mukhtars. The pleaders now everywhere show an acquaintance with English and do not like to read the Bills through the medium of translations. It is not known what other Associations except the British Indian and the Puna Sarvajanic are even consulted by Government regarding any piece of legislation. Most district officers look down upon local associations, and the utmost that district Magistrates or sub-divisional officers do in this connection is to ask the opinions of one or two zemindars. Under these circumstances measures should be adopted for giving wider publicity to Acts and Bills. Of course it cannot be expected that the effect of this will be to evoke in India a larger amount of discussion regarding legislative measures than is called forth in England. But one thing may be safely expected, namely, now that vernacular newspapers, which are now mostly conducted by members of the legal profession, will devote increased attention to the proceedings of the Legislature. The Editor asks that all papers relating to a Bill should be distributed free of cost, and suggests that the opinions of members of proposed local boards regarding Bills may be taken with advantage. Above all, the question of time is an important one. It is not unusual to find a Bill passed into law even before a translation thereof has been published. Mr. Ilbert is not disposed to lay down any hard-and-fast rules on this point, but would prefer leaving the matter to the discretion of the members of the Legislative Council. This would be perfectly unobjectionable were it not for the fact that these members not unoften surrender their judgment to that of the executive Government. Let the rules of business be so amended that it may be impossible for any member

BHARAT MIHIR.

or even the Viceroy to hurry a Bill through the Council in one or two days. The Editor does not see the necessity of reprinting a Bill if it has not been extensively modified by the select committee. It will quite answer the purpose if the sections which may be thus modified are reprinted.

BNARAT MINIR,
December 26th, 1882.

8. The same paper observes, in reference to Sir Richard Garth's minute on the proposed Rent Bill, that it would have been better if Sir Richard had not appeared in the field in the character of the zemindar's advocate. The Editor fully recognizes the necessity that has arisen for placing the relations between landlord and tenant in Bengal on a satisfactory footing, and remarks that the zemindar should not have the power of ousting a tenant from his homestead. On the subject of creating occupancy-rights and conferring upon the tenant the power of transferring his holding there is no need, according to the Editor, of altering the present law. Any alterations on these points would quite revolutionize the relations between landlord and tenants, and reduce the former to nonentities.

The proposed Rent Law.

SADHARANI,
December 31st, 1882.

9. The *Sádháraní*, of the 31st December 1882, contains an article on Sir Richard Garth's minute on the Rent Bill. The Editor remarks that the publication of the minute has not been without some advantage. Were it not for his minute the question would not be so warmly discussed now. The objections raised by the Chief Justice have been already answered. His last objection is of a trivial nature. Sir Richard objects to the Bill having retrospective effect; but it is clear that if the tenants can acquire the occupancy-right only after a certain number of years any legislation to be really effective must have effect from a prior period.

Landlord and Tenant.

SADHARANI.

10. Referring to the examination for clerkships in the India Secretariat the same paper directs the attention of Lord Ripon to the hardship caused to poor candidates by the requirement of the rule relating to medical certificates. Now it so happens that there are civil and assistant surgeons who are not disposed to grant the required health certificate without taking a fee. It behoves Government to direct that all medical officers should grant such certificates without a fee, and further to empower private medical practitioners, all L. M. S. and M. B. degree-holders, to grant such certificates.

Examination for Secretariat clerkships.

SOM PRANASH,
January 1st, 1883.

11. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 1st January, points out the necessity that has arisen on the part of Government of regulating the hours of work of native employés in the public and private offices. At present they have to work for more than twelve hours, and are not allowed sufficient time for recreation. This state of things is mainly responsible for the utter breakdown of health that is noticeable among the great majority of native clerks in the Government as well as in mercantile and railway offices.

Hours of work in public and private offices.

SOM PRANASH.

12. The same paper gives a summary of the case of the widow and minor son of the late Fazal Ali Chowdhuri of Chittagong, whose estate has been recently placed under the management of the Court of Wards, and strongly condemns the action of the Collector of Chittagong in this connection.

The Collector of Chittagong and the estate of Fazal Ali Chowdhuri.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 1st, 1883.

13. Referring to a decision of the Judge of Hooghly in a recent case under the Patents Act, in which Messrs. Thompson and Mylne of Behea have successfully sued one Ramnarayan Banerji of Howrah for manufacturing and selling a machine for pressing sugar-cane of which they are the registered patentees, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 1st January, points out the injurious

A case under the Patents Act.

consequences that are likely to result from this decision. Now, in the case under notice, Government ought not to have granted a patent to Messrs. Thompson and Mylne, inasmuch as they were not the inventors of the machine in question. Nor is it true that Ramnarayan Banerji manufactured his machine after theirs. The fact is, sugar-cane, pressing machines of wood and iron have long been known and in use in this country, and what Messrs. Thompson and Mylne have done has been simply to copy the country-made machines, a thing that has been done by Ramnarayan Banerji also. The only difference between them is that the former have wisely had registered their alleged invention, while ignorant Ramnarayan has not done so. He has had to pay dearly for it. Now the present practice regarding the registry of inventions by Government is open to grave objections. Under it Government takes the fees and registers the name, residence and other particulars regarding the applicant. What is to be objected to in this matter is that in registering a patent, Government does not take the trouble to enquire whether the applicant is really the inventor he claims to be. Under section 3 of Act XV of 1859 the Governor-General indeed can order an enquiry, but this is rarely done. This is calculated to lead, as it has led in the present case, unscrupulous men to take out patents of machines already in use, and, armed with their new authority, to tie the hands of the other manufacturers. For all these reasons it behoves Government to discontinue the practice of granting patents without due enquiry, and to grant no patents of machines widely used, or which have been long in use. It should also be further provided that in cases under the Patent Act the defendant should be able to prove that the plaintiff is not entitled to the patent, and that he has wrongfully taken it out. The existing provision of the law is quite inadequate for the purpose.

14. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 25th December 1882, complains of the action of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta in prohibiting the celebration of Hindu Sradhs on the banks of the river at Calcutta and the casting of the bones of deceased Hindus into the river. This has greatly aggrieved the Hindus.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
December 25th, 1882.

Interference in Hindu funeral ceremonies.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th January 1883.

